1	2
44. Duburi	Cuttack
45. Kesinga	Kalahandi
PONDICHERRY (1)	
46. Karaikal	Pondicherry
PUNJAB (2)	
47. Bhatinda	Bhatinda
48. Pathankot	Gurdaspur
RAJASTHAN (5)	
49. Abu Road	Sirohi
50. Bhilwara	Bhilwara
51. Bikaner	Bikaner
52. Jhalawar	Jhalawar
53. Dholpur	Dholpur
TAMIL NANDU (3)	
54. Erode	Periyar
55. Panangudi-Thirumarugal	Thanjavur
56. Tirunelveli (Gangai Kondan Nanur Block)	Tirunelveli-Kattabomman
TRIPURA (1)	
57. Uttar Champamura	West Tripura
UTTAR PRADESH (8)	
58. Bachauli-Buzurg	Jhansi
59. Banthara	Shahjahanpur
60. Chaudharpur	Moradabad
61. Dibiapur	Etawah
62. Khurja	Bulandshahr
63. Mungra Satharia	Jaunpur
64. Sahjanwa	Gorakhpur
65. Shivrajpur-Padampur	Pauri-Garhwal
WEST BENGAL (3)	
66. Dubrajpur	Birbhum
67. Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri
68. Malda	Malda

Figures in brackets shown against each State indicates the number of growth centres allocated to that State.

Option on Voter Identity Cards

568. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in Bombay edition of the Indian express dated 25th January, 1993 under the caption Government ignores cheaper option on voter I-cards; and

(b) if so what are the facts in this regard and the action taken in the matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, However, as per the directions of the Election Commission, it is for the Chief Electoral Officers to adopt either the conventional system of photography or the polaroid system of photography or the digitalised system of photography for preparation of Identity Cards, depending upon the availability of the different systems at different geographic locations.

Photo Indentity Cards to the Electorate

569. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of Chief Ministers was held recently on the photo identity cards to the electorate by January, 1995;

(b) if so, the consensus arrived at in the meeting;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to implement the same;

(d) by when Government propose to bring forward an amending Bill on the Representation of the people's Act to give effect to the decisions if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to the State to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The consensus at the meeting of the Chief Ministers was that the Government should persuade the Election Commission to try the scheme of issue of photo identity caros on experimental basis in selected areas and, if found, successful extend it to other parts of the country in a phased manner.

(c) The matter is under the active consideration of Government.

(d) The consensus decision at the Chief Ministers Conference does not call for an amendment to the Representation of the people Act.

(e) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Provision of photo identity cards to voters

570. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission had given a mandate that all voters in the country be provided with photo identity cards by 31st December, 1994 failing which no elections in the country will be held from January, 1995 onwards;

(b) whether cost factor has been advanced as the main hurdle;

(c) whether an agency in Madras has offered to supply digital identity cards containing the image of the voter with necessary entries at a fraction of the estimated cost through the process of videographing; and

(d) whether the argument of cost loses the legs it stands on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cost factor is no doubt a big constraint.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of recommendations by Committee on electoral reforms

571. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Jagannathrao Committee of 1972 and the Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms which have been accepted or rejected; and

(b) what steps have so far been taken for the implementation thereof and what further steps towards electoral reforms are contemplated to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The main recommendations of the Jagannathrao Committee of 1972 related to making Election Commission a multi-member body, reduction in voting age from 21 years to 18 years, and providing broadcasting facilities for contesting candidates.

The Dinesh Goswami Committee had gone into the entire gamut of Electoral Reforms a fresh in 1990 and made certain recommendations. Of these, the main recommendations which have since been accepted relate to making Election Commission a three-member body; fresh delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 1991 census; and use of existing electronic voting machines in elections. The other recommendations of the Goswami Committee alongwith certain other proposals on Electoral Reforms are under consideration of the Government and a comprehensive package on Electoral Reforms is proposed to be brought after consultation with political parties.